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S-E-C-R-E-T

Black Shield File

[Redacted] Approved For Release 2003/02/27 : CIA-RDP79B01709A001900060017-9

25 October 1967

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIA Member, COMIREX

SUBJECT: BLACK SHIELD Operational Planning Data

REFERENCES: a. COMIREX Exploitation Team PACOM Trip,
15 September--1 October 1967
b. USIB-D-46.1/2, Overseas Handling, Processing,
And Reporting on Selected Nationally
Programmed Photographic Reconnaissance
Missions, 21 June 1967 (LD)

1. Attached as Tab A is a COMIREX-NRO coordinated draft message concerning operational planning data for BLACK SHIELD over North Vietnam. This was developed as a result of reference a.

2. It is requested that in consonance with reference b, DIA transmit this information to appropriate authorities.

Hayden Channing
William A. Tidwell
Chairman
Committee on Imagery Requirements
and Exploitation

[Redacted]
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D
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A
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T CABLE

SECRET HANDLE VIA TALENT CONTROL (LIMITED DISTRIBUTION)

FROM: DIA COORDINATION:
TO: CINCPAC COMIREX: W. A. Tidwell
INFO: CINCPACAF OSA: E.D.Duckett, Jr.
5th AF NRO: *B.Gen Berg*
67th RTS
HQ USAF

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OPCEN

NPIC

THIS IS A COMIREX-NRO COORDINATED MESSAGE. REFERENCE IS MADE TO YOUR VERBAL REQUEST DURING THE RECENT COMIREX EXPLOITATION TEAM VISIT FOR OFFICIAL OPERATIONAL PLANNING DATA FOR THE BLACK SHIELD PROGRAM. THE FOLLOWING DATA SHOULD BE USED FOR YOUR FUTURE PLANNING AND OPERATIONS.

1. THE CURRENT OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION IS FOR A MAXIMUM OF NINE BLACK SHIELD MISSIONS PER MONTH. HOWEVER, ~~A COMBINATION OF FACTORS INDICATE~~ THE MAXIMUM WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING ANY ONE MONTH IS ON THE ORDER OF SIX TO SEVEN; ON AN AVERAGE OF EACH SEVEN MISSIONS FLOWN, TWO OF THEM WILL BE FLOWN BACK-TO-BACK. HOWEVER, THESE BACK-TO-BACK SERIES WILL PROBABLY NOT OCCUR MORE FREQUENTLY THAN ONCE DURING ANY ONE WEEK.

2. CURRENT OPERATING PROCEDURES ARE TO SCHEDULE A BLACK SHIELD MISSION FOR LAUNCH EVERY DAY, WITH ACTUAL LAUNCH DEPENDENT PRIMARILY UPON WEATHER. BASED UPON CLIMATOLOGY AND ITS ASSOCIATED OPERATING PROCEDURE, THE FOLLOWING MONTHLY ESTIMATES OF POTENTIAL LAUNCHES ARE

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MADE FOR YOUR PLANNING PURPOSES.

A. NOVEMBER: SIX TO SEVEN
B. DECEMBER: SIX TO SEVEN
C. JANUARY: FOUR TO FIVE
D. FEBRUARY: FOUR TO SIX
E. MARCH: FOUR TO SIX
F. APRIL: SIX TO SEVEN
G. MAY: FOUR TO SIX
H. JUNE: ONE TO THREE
I. JULY: ONE TO THREE
J. AUGUST: ONE TO THREE
K. SEPTEMBER: FOUR TO SIX
L. OCTOBER: FOUR TO SIX

3. BLACK SHIELD MAY SHIFT VEHICLES IN FEBRUARY 1968 WITH AN ACCOMPANYING CHANGE IN FILM PRODUCT. THEATRE PRODUCERS AND EXPLOITERS WILL RECEIVE ADEQUATE ADVANCE INFO AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

END OF MESSAGE

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